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HEBREWS

*Inside Terry's Office:
The Book of Hebrews—Shared Sufferings!*

Jesus suffered when he was tempted. C.S. Lewis claims that he suffered more from his temptations than you and me because we often yield to our worst temptations before experiencing the full suffering of complete resistance.

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ... For this reason, he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (2: 14-15, 17-18)

I haven't suffered all the possible sin motivations of those I counsel with. Thank God! However, I can sympathize with all and empathize with most. And, when I do, I become a safer, more honest, more loving, and more Christlike counselor.

It is not helpful to try to compare our sufferings with those of our counselees, or to compete with who has suffered more or resisted most. We all fail enough to need a savior, comforter, and friend. In fact, I find a bond with Jesus is available to me when I invite him into my temptations.

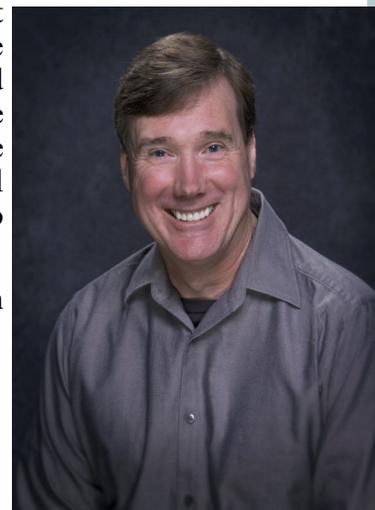
Recently, I had an ‘opportunity’ to apologize to my wife. Technically, I think we could have functioned OK without it. Soooo, I thought, “This is not a temptation Jesus ever faced; he never had an opportunity to ask forgiveness because he never sinned.” Without pause, my Bible-soaked, Holiness-oriented brain (or maybe It was Holy Spirit) realized my temptation was pride-based and Jesus was tempted by Satan in the desert with pride-based temptations also. Jesus does know how it feels to want to fight for your reputation. Satan started each of his temptations with, “If you are the Son of God...”.

I decided I could humble myself with the help of the all-time greatest Humble-person, since He is right there with me. ... It was a minor suffering. Shaun helped me through it by being gracious.

I hope you are familiar with my writing style and realize that I'm making a point. As small as this moment was, it still cost me something. Of course, I have faced bigger temptations, and resisting them feels a little more like dying. My point is that we all share that experience with each other and with Jesus! It is one of our most powerful common bonds! So, believe me when I tell you; I understand when you give in to the suffering and I'm so proud of you when you don't! ... Both!

It is a privilege to be able to discuss life at this level with people in my office! I thank God and our supporters for it!

In His Grip, TWE



“I love you too much not to grow you up with solid food.” Hebrews 5:11-14

Larry: “Father, help me resist the temptation to shrink back into the familiar pleasure of easily digested milk. Serve me the meat that will deepen my faith, that will sustain me in hope, that will free me to love. What are You saying, in this letter that You want me to hear, to eat?”

God: *“In this moment My Son is serving you as your priest. . . . See Jesus CAMZ Counsel, September 2018, Hebrews*

I begin with some excerpts from Larry Crabb’s conversation with God in the fifty-eighth Love Letter of 66 Love Letters, **Hebrews:**

God: *“Crucify the ‘how question’. Stop trying to figure out what you can do to develop stronger faith, brighter hope, richer love. Keep drinking the milk I’ve poured into your bottle. But come to My table as an adult prepared to eat meat where He is right now, where He is when you awake in a cold sweat at two in the morning, where He is when you’re alone in a hotel room and tempted to watch what should never cross your eyes, where He is when you’ve been devastated by loss or rejection, where He is when your failure has brought you into the depths of despair.”*

I would like to get real and bring you into my NOW. By the time you read this article in our September newsletter my daughter, Amy, my son-in-love, Nick and my grandchildren, Reuben (9) and Gabriella (6) will have moved into their new home on Long Island, NY. Even as I write this, the tears well in my eyes and the lump constricts in my throat. With everything in me I want them to stay close----in a distance that I can manage within my time frame and financial limitations.

From Oswald Chambers, *“Many of the things in life that inflict the greatest injury, grief, or pain, stem from the fact that we suffer from illusions.”*

As the impending move away approaches, I am keenly aware of the illusion I have that family must remain in close proximity in order for us to adequately do life together. This illusion leads me to the fear of being separated by so many miles. Accompanying the fear is the sadness for the things I will miss, the school assemblies, the sporting events, dance performances, celebrations and special events. As well as not being present for them, I hate the thought of them not being here for me. I am already grieving that Amy will more than likely not be with us for the first time ever for a Thanksgiving and to share in the tradition of the two of us decorating my Christmas tree the day after.

At this point I would like to step back to Crabb’s prayer quoted above, “Father, help me resist the temptation to **shrink back into the familiar** pleasure of easily digested milk.”

It is easy at this point of awareness of my fears and sadness to **shrink back** into trying to turn these sad things into glad things. Here are the most popular happy thoughts coming my way to console:

At least it’s a nice place to visit. Yes, I have twice visited NYC and both times were happy experiences. Both visits left me wanting for another visit and tickets are already purchased for a return visit this September.

At least you won’t need a passport to go visit them. Yes, this is true. I have a friend who recently visited her daughter, son-in-law and grandson in India by herself! There is always someone who is going through something harder.

At least there’s Face Time. Yes, I was reminiscing that when each of our children were born and my parents were far away the best we had was a long distance phone call and snail mail to send photos and, after the last one was born, VHS tapes. Now we have face time and I am grateful for modern technology.

At least you know they are following God's will. Yes, indeed I do have that assurance. (3John 1:4a, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.")

As I regard these statements I would like to take a moment to differentiate between **shrinking back** into turning things into glad (*easily digested milk*) and *walking by faith (chewing the meat.)*

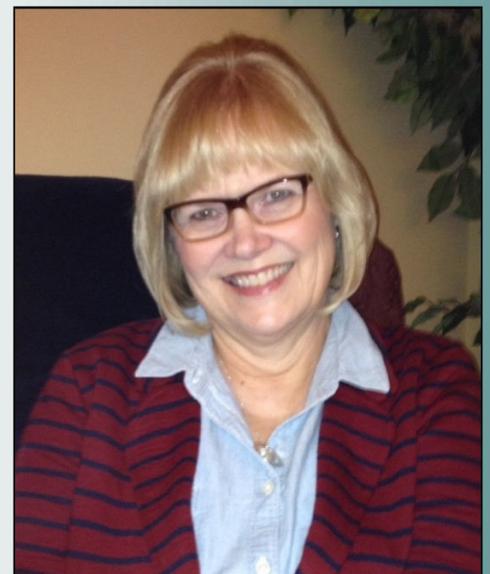
While these four statements are all worthy thoughts, when used in an attempt to numb or dispel the discomfort of grief the result can leave one feeling guilty when the sadness remains. I think we are naturally inclined toward avoiding sadness. "Think on the bright side" we say. Grief, however, gives the sadness a purpose. Grief acknowledges the loss that I feel as I face the separation. I will need the grief to embrace the truth of the above statements in order to be comforted by them. Allowing the grief to be a part of the process also gives me empathy. It helps me to not **shrink back** into *floundering for something uplifting to say when I am confronted with someone else's sadness.*

Grief is one of life's faith ventures. Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the faith chapter. I love how verse 1 reads in The Voice, "Faith is the assurance of things you have hoped for, the absolute conviction that *there are realities you've never seen.*" *Grief as a faith venture takes us beyond seeking a formula to make life work better into the consistency of allowing God to do His good work in the life in front of us. Crabb says milk is God's story told simply. "Never stop drinking it. Meat is the same story explored deeply."*

I had the privilege of being present for my son-in-law's departing message to the church where he has served for 11 years. From that message I received this *meat to chew on. First of all he said, "Lean in to God when your faith is stretched."* His message was entitled, *Calling over Comfort. "Comfort", he said, "is conditional; calling never leaves you. Comfort lives in the arena of certainty. Calling lives in the arena of faith. God did not save you for a life of comfort. He saved you for a life of calling."* He also said, *"When we call on God, He responds with a calling."*

In Hebrews 11:1 I can see the calling in the "arena of faith" and I can see it encapsulated by the comfort of assurance and conviction. When you respond to God's calling, God will provide the comfort needed to persevere. Grace is God's comfort and there is more than enough for the *NOW.*

Carol Anne



 **Rustic Cuff**
Fundraisers

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Ministries, Inc.



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Sizes: Small/Med - fits 5" to 6.5" wrist
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Cash, Check & PayPal accepted. Make checks payable to: Plumblne Ministries Inc.

PayPal: <https://paypal.me/PlumblneSoulCare> Payment is due when ordering.

If shipping is required, please add \$7.20 for USPS Priority Mail.

Please contact Liz Merrill 918.853.4653 with questions.

Our Rustic Cuff Fundraiser begins Monday, August 27th. Orders will be taken beginning this date through Saturday, September 15th. Orders are anticipated to be delivered back to purchasers mid November. We will be scheduling a "pick up" date at Plumblne. Shipping will also be available for those who request it. (If shipment of your cuff is preferred, USPS Priority Shipping will be our method, and \$7.20 will be added to the total price. If the shipping option is requested, please print the USPS shipping address on the enclosed order form in the total payment section.

Cash, or checks are also accepted. Please make your check payable to Plumblne Ministries, Inc. or you may pay through Paypal at <https://paypal.me/PlumblneSoulCare>.

Cuffs will be each individually packaged in a satin-lined velvet pouch ready for gift giving! Samples are available for viewing at the Plumblne Ministry Offices, or you can view these online at Facebook-Stickman Tulsa.

Join us for our FUNdraiser at

Panda Express

105th and Memorial

10535 S Memorial Dr.

Tulsa, OK 74133



When: Tuesday, September 25, 2018

5pm to 8pm

A portion of the proceeds will be donated

To **Plumblin Ministries, Inc.**

for our Classroom Transformation Project!

Please bring this flyer or show the information on FB when placing your order.

See YOU there!

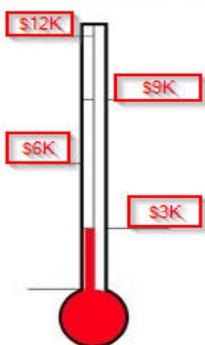


Classroom Transformation Update!

We are so very thankful to the many hands that have been involved in the Classroom Transformation Project! We were blessed with some comfy used chairs that were discarded and needed some repairs. A very Special thanks to **Doug Meyer** who volunteered his time, supplies and labor working on our chairs! Doug you are SO appreciated! Thank you to **Anthony Elliott** for donating the curtain rods! Thank you also to all of you who have donated to this fund! We have purchased new classroom tables and window treatments. We are in the process now of installing the new window treatments.

What is the Classroom Transformation Project? Plumblin Ministries, Inc. hosts a variety of classes and seminars. We are working to make our classroom into a more welcoming environment designed to encourage class/seminar participants to feel comfortable sharing their hearts with others.

Our goal is to be able to make many additional changes in the future as funding allows! Our FUNdraising Nights are going into this fund as well as any specific designated donations! To date we have raised just over \$3000.00 of our \$12,000.00 goal. James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.



If you would like to partner with us for this important project, donations are very much appreciated *and can be sent to:*

Plumblin Ministries, Inc.

6122 East 61st Street

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

Stickman's Prayers

stickman's prayers

the everyday practice of
"loosing prayers"
and the ministry of
"exploratory prayers"



Michelle Carpenter
Terry Ewing
Erin Garcia
Margo Hanne
Carolyn Knippers
Carol McNamarra
Sue Merrill

Plumblin's newest book, *Stickman's Prayers* has been published and is now available at Plumblin!

Would you be surprised to know that the "Prayer of Jabez" was a joke?

Would you be happy to know what kind of prayers are appropriate for you to pray for yourself and what kinds are meant for you to pray for others and others for you?

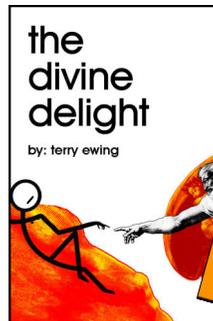
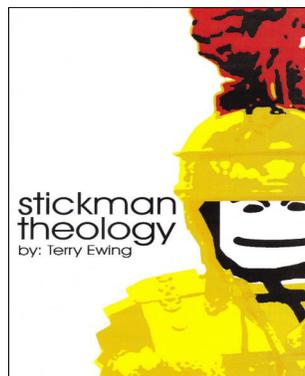
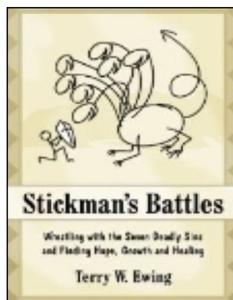
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

Praying is the most natural thing in the world for Christians; an on going conversation with our best friend, counselor, and confidant; gratitude to our Savior and provider; intercession on behalf of our friends; requests to our Creator. In this regard, a book on prayer may seem presumptuous. When you write a book on Prayer aren't you suggesting that some are praying wrongly, or, at least could be praying better?

That really is not the kind of message we look to promote. So...why the book?

The *Stickman's Prayers* serves two purposes. First, to challenge some ideas that other teaching and preaching concerning prayer has promoted. And, to offer simple encouragements to personal prayer and prayer ministries.

Available at Plumblin for a suggested donation of \$10.00 each



Did you know you can download

Stickman Theology

On your KINDLE?

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, you could be helping to financially support Plumblin? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumblin.** All you need to do is go to smiles.amazon.com, designate Plumblin Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumblin. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

FALL CLASSES



Looking for a change?

Tired of getting the same results?

Come learn a new way!

PLUMBLINE MINISTRIES, INC. has

NEW classes starting soon!

Soul Care - Unit 1: Foundation—Starts September 6th

Cost: www.plumblinelineonline.com for various options

CoDependency—When good behaviors are taken too far or when I need you to be okay for me to be okay, you may need the skills taught in the codependency class.

Starts—Sunday, September 9th—10 weeks—2:00 P.M. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost—\$70.00 plus book

Boundaries—Why do I say yes, when I want to say no? Do I feel controlled by others? Do I feel a need to control others? Get help with questions like these and many more by learning about **BOUNDARIES!**

Starts Tuesday, September 18th—10 weeks—6:30 to 8:30 p.m

Cost \$70.00 plus book

Safe People—Learn how to identify the nurturing people we all need and want in our lives as well as how to be that person for those in our lives!

Starts Wednesday, September 12th—10 weeks—6:30—8:30 p.m.

Cost \$70.00 plus book.

Enrollments can be accepted up to a week after class starts.

PLUMBLINE

MINISTRIES

8222 E. 103rd St

Suite 127

Tulsa, OK 74133

